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LAW OFFICE

**MCLEOD, WATKINSON & MILLER**

MICHAEL R. MCLEOD  
WAYNE R. WATKINSON  
MARC E. MILLER  
RICHARD T. ROSSIER  
CHARLES A. SPITULNIK  
RICHARD PASCO  
PAUL D. SMOLINSKY

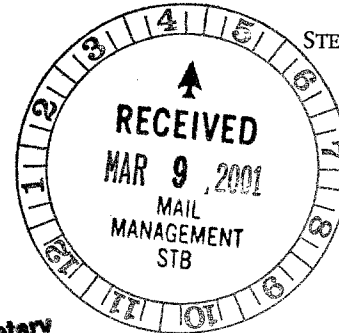
ONE MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
SUITE 800  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-1401  
(202) 842-2345  
TELECOPY (202) 408-7763

KATHRYN A. KLEIMAN  
OF COUNSEL  
(\*Admitted in Virginia only)

ROBERT RANDALL GREEN  
LAURA L. PHELPS  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

STEPHEN FRERICHES  
ECONOMIST

March 9, 2001



**ENTERED**  
**Office of the Secretary**

**MAR - 9 2001**

**Part of**  
**Public Record**

Honorable Vernon A. Williams  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: *STB* Ex Parte 582 (Sub-No. 1) Oral Argument

Dear Sir:

The State of Maryland hereby notifies this Board pursuant to the order dated February 22, 2001 in this proceeding, that undersigned counsel will present oral argument on April 5, 2001 on behalf of the State of Maryland. The State has an interest in a broad range of issues raised by this proceeding and will focus its argument on: the impact of a merger on agreements the merging carriers have previously reached with short lines, ports or other persons or entities; the Board's authority to impose additional conditions on merging carriers after a merger has been approved and the transaction consummated; the role of states and other parties in the pre-merger planning process; and the role of the Board in the oversight process that is part of the proposed rules.

Pursuant to the Board's request in the February 22 order, the issues related to the interests of the MARC Train Service, the State's commuter rail operator, will be addressed by the argument of the American Public Transportation Association ("APTA").

**MCLEOD, WATKINSON & MILLER**

Honorable Vernon A. Williams

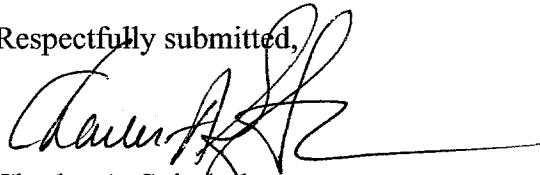
March 9, 2001

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The State requests 10 minutes of argument time to address these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Spitulnik", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles A. Spitulnik

Counsel for the State of Maryland

cc: All parties of record in Ex Parte 582 (Sub-No. 1)